



## Newsletter – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

We have quickly arrived at the end of our first half term. School will close today and re – open for children on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (first bell at 8:50am with school starting at 8:55am)** (when the countdown to Christmas really begins!). Attached to this email/newsletter, you will find a parental version of our School Improvement Targets for this school year. We produce a lengthy document each year, having spent the summer months analysing the school data to see what we need to do to further improve the school. The sheet you have is a breakdown of the main targets that we have set for this year. Also attached is a list of the key dates for the next half term. Your child will come home with their most recent attendance data (September 2017 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October). The colour of the paper this sheet is printed on denotes whether or not your child has met the school's attendance target:

Colour	Indicates	%
Green	Met or exceeded the target	Above 96%
Amber	A satisfactory level of attendance	90.1% - 95.9%
Red	An unacceptable level of attendance	Less than 90%

### Class attendance update:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EB	95.68%	Y1CS	95.34%	Y3JW	95.59%	Y5NC	95.75%
YR:NT	94.74%	Y1/2EG	93.42%	Y3/4NL	97.20%	Y5/6AJM	97.72%
		Y2OB	95.64%	Y4HJ	95.81%	Y6JY	96.35%

\*%s are up to and including Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Mrs Bonner** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October was an emotional day for us all as we said goodbye to our much loved staff member, Mrs Bonner. Her funeral took place at St. George's Church where members of our school community joined with Mrs Bonner's friends and family to celebrate her life. Our school choir did themselves proud by singing so beautifully under such sad circumstances. Any donations for the family's chosen charity, Headway, that have been sent to school have been passed on, and everyone's comments in the memory book have now been collated. Both staff and children continue to support each other through this difficult time.



**Parents' evening** – Earlier this week, you should have received your confirmed times for our Autumn term Parents' Evening. These are taking place during the first week back when we return after half term, on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 3:30pm – 6:30pm OR Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 3:30pm – 6:30pm**. Please ensure that you arrive at the school's main entrance 5 minutes before your allocated time and take a seat in the area provided. The meeting with your child's teacher will take place in the school hall with a strict time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on both days should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this.

**Reading 'events'** – Many thanks for your recent support with our Scholastic Book Fair – it was great to see so many children eager to buy new books to read at home. Look out soon for the re-launch of our 'Extreme Reading' competition – this is something we did a few years ago and involves the children having their picture taken in a different place where they may read – the more extreme the better (see my picture left, from 2014!). In response to recent feedback, we will also be holding a reading workshop for KS1 parents/carers on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm in school**. Mr Young, Mrs O'Brien, Miss Glassbrook and Mr Simmons will all be present to give you the most up to date information and answer any questions about how you can support your child with their reading at home. Look out for the letter coming out soon from Mrs O' Brien about this.



*'Never settle for less than your best'*

**Open afternoon** – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October saw school open its doors fully for this year’s first open afternoon with Headteacher forum. We welcomed parents/carers of children in nursery, reception and KS1 into school to spend part of the afternoon in classes and then part of the afternoon having some refreshments in the school hall where I was available to answer any questions about school and life at St. George’s Central. Our open afternoon with Headteacher forum for **KS2 parents/carers only** is planned for **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1:30pm start.**



**African dancing** – KS1 took part in an exciting African dance workshop, delivered by *The Education Group*, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. This formed part of their topic work this half-term, which began with the question: ‘Would you rather live in Africa or England?’ During the workshop, the children put together a sequence of movements which they performed to African music. They learned about the djembe drums and listened out for them when the music played. As well as learning dances, the children had lots of opportunities to listen to the rhythm and create their own movements which they then shared with each other. They even learned a traditional West African song! The children enjoyed this great opportunity to learn about a different culture.

**Remembrance Sunday parade** – Upon our return to school after half term, letters will be sent out asking for children to take part in the annual Remembrance Sunday parade – for the last four years we have been the only primary school in Tyldesley to do this and so I am hoping that we have a great turn out again this year on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Look out for the letter sent out upon our return to school. The Tyldesley Branch of the British Legion will be in school as part of our whole school worship on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

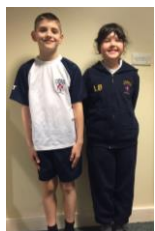


**Children in Need** – This will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November and this year, in order to raise money, we are saying that for a £1 donation, children can come dressed in suitable pyjamas/dressing gowns or onesies.

**PTFA News** – Our first PTFA meeting recently took place in school and potential events for the coming school term were discussed. As a result of the meeting the following events have been planned:

Date	Event
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Non – Uniform day: donation of any of the following items: packs of Christmas cards, wrapping paper, Christmas decorations, lucky dip toys, chocolate or wine.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	Christmas Fair (3:30pm – 5:30pm)

As well as the above items for donation, we are asking for any empty wine bottles to be sent in to be used on one of our stalls – these can be sent in to school from now onwards. **Also, could you help at our Christmas Fair?** Please let the school office know if you could help in running your own stall on the night. In the past we have had volunteers painting nails, doing face painting and baking cakes or selling crafts to name a few and so with your help we can continue to raise funds to support some of the extra activities in school. It would be great to have some new ideas for stalls.



**PE kits** – There appears to be some confusion over our expectation for school PE kit and so please see below, some of the information that was contained in the July newsletter:

*‘With your feedback, we have decided that from September onwards, for children in Y1 – Y6 we will adopt the school hoody and jogging trousers, dark leggings or school shorts for outdoor PE lessons (modelled by Lyra in the picture) with the usual school t-shirt underneath. For indoor PE lessons, we will keep the school/dark shorts and t-shirt (modelled by Oliver). These PE kits are available at Wendy’s in Tyldesley and Icon Embroidery in Astley’.*

Therefore, I apologise if from the above it was not made clear but we would like all children from Year 1 – Year 6 to have both the indoor and outdoor PE kits as shown on the images above. We will do PE in all weathers and so children could actually wear their shorts for outdoor lessons and girls could wear dark leggings. We are again considering the option of allowing children to wear their PE kits to school on the days they have outdoor PE – this is something we are discussing at our next senior leadership meeting and we will let you know the outcome. Please remember all children are required to have black pumps in school for PE lessons.

***‘Never settle for less than your best’***

## Information about Christmas performances



At our school there will be Christmas performances from children in our Nursery, Reception and KS1 on the following dates/times:



Date	Event
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas performance: <b>1:30pm start</b> (followed by 'stay and play' session in nursery) Reception Christmas production: <b>2:15pm start</b> Year 1/Year 2 Christmas production: <b>6pm start</b>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas performance: <b>9:30am start</b> (followed by 'stay and play' session in nursery) Reception Christmas production: <b>10:15am start</b> Year 1/Year 2 Christmas production: <b>2pm start</b>

**Nursery** – Children will come into the school hall and perform some Christmas carols on stage to the nursery families only. All visitors who have come to watch will then have the opportunity to go into nursery to spend time with their child for a short stay and play session. This will be repeated the following day. However, as nursery may get rather busy, we would ask that you only attend one of the stay and play sessions.

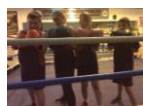
**Reception** – Children will take to the stage to perform their Christmas production, in the school hall, to their families only.

**KS1** – All children in Year 1 and Year 2 will perform together, on stage as in previous years.

*Tickets for all performances will go on sale from **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November from Mrs Kearns' external door at 9am (2 per family).***

*Please see the Autumn term 2 dates letter for further details about tickets with all these performances.*

### ATSA Events



**Boxing taster session** – On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 4 children from Year 6 took part in a Boxing taster session at Astley VIP Boxing gym. The children experienced a variety of fitness activities linked to boxing alongside children from other Atherton and Tyldesley schools.

**Swimming gala** – Eight children from St. George's Central School recently took part in a swimming gala against children from eleven other primary schools. The four boys and four girls took part in both individual and team races at the Pelican Centre. Well done to Leighton Barry, Jenna Binks, Tegan Davies, Lewis Edwards, Miller Ince, Ella Meskell, Kieran Smith and Amelia Zgierun who made up the St. George's Central team.



**Y5/6 Hockey festival** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October saw the Y5/6 hockey team take part in a festival against five other schools. The team did really well in the windy conditions and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final. Well done to Mrs Feeney and her team: Logan Aspinall, Tommy Hampson, Alec Highlands, Miller Ince, Ellie Prentice Jones, Cameron Lucas, Gutjera Tumerevichute and Scarlett Vella.

**Cross Country** – Last night some children from St. George's Central took part in a Cross Country race, against children from thirteen other schools, at Atherton Community School. The children had been training hard at dinnertimes and so it was great to see all their hard work pay off as the children finished **2<sup>nd</sup> overall!** Well done to all members of the team who contributed to this.



### Before the next newsletter, children from St. George's Central will be taking part in:

\*VX taster and VX festival\* \*KS2 Inclusive Kurling\* \*Y5/6 Basketball festival\* \*Smite! taster session\* \*Table tennis taster session\*

The next newsletter will be emailed out on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Paper copies of the newsletter will be made available in the letter holders in the school entrance area for you to pick up should you wish. Remember that when we return the school there will be no after school clubs during the first week back. Have a great half term with your family.

Mr M Grogan – Headteacher

***'Never settle for less than your best'***

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